

Mid-Week Devotion

Read:

F-1.01 of the PC(USA) Book of Order

GOD'S MISSION

The good news of the Gospel is that the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people. This one living God, the Scriptures say, liberated the people of Israel from oppression and covenanted to be their God. By the power of the Spirit, this one living God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, who came to live in the world, die for the world, and be raised again to new life. The Gospel of Jesus Christ announces the nearness of God's kingdom, bringing good news to all who are impoverished, sight to all who are blind, freedom to all who are oppressed, and proclaiming the Lord's favor upon all creation.

The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God's mission.

Reflect:

One of the blessings of our church is its inclusion amongst a large network and group of churches who agree to some organizing principles of our faith. While every local congregation will be a different

One of the blessings of our church is its inclusion amongst a large network and group of churches who agree to some organizing principles of what it means to live together as church. While every local congregation will be a different expression of these principles, with each congregation emphasizing certain parts more than others, calling ourselves “Presbyterian” is an identifying marker to ourselves and the world.

The Book of Order is the document which organizes those agreed upon principles. Over the next few weeks, we’ll be looking at the “Foundations”, the part of the Book which lays out our guiding values and ideals. In this first section, we identify what we understand to be God’s purpose in and for the world and how those ideals should guide the work of the local church. The book begins this way because the foundations shape everything else which is to come, from how we agree to read scripture, the responsibilities of church membership, and the blessings of God’s worship.

Respond:

- How does this section describe “the good news” of the gospel?
- What does it understand to be God’s mission in the world?
- What would a church which lived into these principles look and sound like? What about an individual?
- Do you think anything is missing from this description of God’s mission?

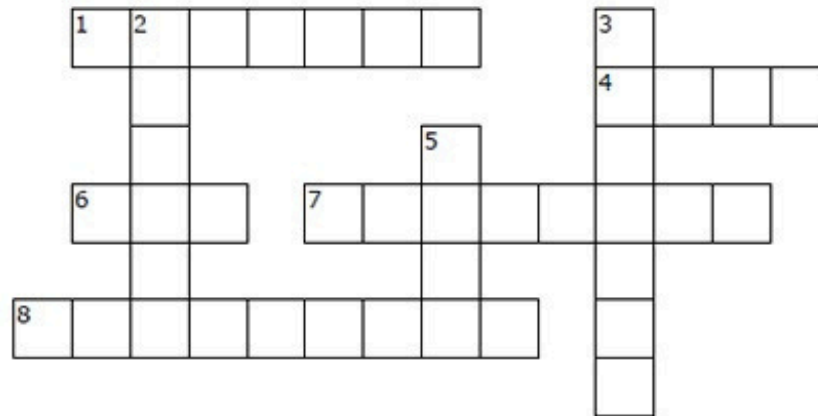
A New Commandment

"Love one another as I have loved you."



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

This puzzle is based on John 13:31-35 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. An order or a rule given with authority
4. To have feelings of compassion and concern for another person
6. The opposite of old
7. Boys and girls between birth and puberty
8. Those who follow the teachings of Jesus

DOWN

2. People aside from oneself
3. To give praise and honour to God or a person
5. A period of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, etc.

CHILDREN
GLORIFY

COMMAND
DISCIPLES

LOVE
NEW

OTHERS
TIME

